The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news economic and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor according to the labor-industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other features of benefit to the trade union movement.

# AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WHOLE NO. 2055 | WILLIAM GREEN, *President* | WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, AUGUST 29, 1950 | GEORGE MEANY, *Secretary-Treasurer* | VOL. 40, NO. 35

# Green Hits Meat-Axe Economy, Urges Break For U.S. Workers

## *Full Vote Will Elect Liberal Congress On Nov. 7*

Cleveland.—AFL President William Green delivered a slashing attack before the convention of the National Federation of Post Office Clerks upon reactionary forces in Congress who advocate "meat-axe economy, blind, unreasonable and completely shortsighted."

During the critical days ahead all government workers will be required to make serious sacrifices, "even more serious than the average American worker," Mr. Green said. He called upon the Senate to nullify the postal service cutback, as the House already has done, and he urged Congress to eliminate appropriation bill amendments forcing across-the-board firing of thousands of employes.

"There is not the slightest doubt that government workers, even if Congress votes for equality of sacrifice, will feel the pinch more keenly in the critical months ahead than the average American," Mr. Green continued.

"With fixed incomes, which can only be adjusted by Congress and which Congress is always laggard in revising, government workers are particularly hard hit by the wave of profiteering and inflation which has engulfed our country since the invasion of Korea.

"It is to the interest of government workers therefore, as well as every other American who works for wages, that Congress act promptly to protect the nation's consumers."

After criticizing the anti-inflationary controls bill thus far voted upon in Congress, Mr. Green added:

"It is more than ever imperative that the voters of America elect in November a new Congress which will team work with the President as a team and put progress before obstruction.

"I know the limitations placed upon political activity of government workers by the Hatch Act and other similar legislation. But there is nothing in the law to prevent you from urging your members to register and to vote and to see to it that their families and friends do the same. That's all we need to win in November—a full vote. The people of this country and those employed in the government service know the score. It is not necessary for us to advise them how to vote. But it is up to us, as good citizens and loyal supporters of our trade union movement, to impress upon them the great importance of their voting in the congressional elections this year.

"The same legislators who imposed the Taft-Hartley Act on labor, who embarrassed the foreign policy of the United States with isolationist and obstructionism and who have opposed social justice legislation are the very ones who consistently have cracked down unjustly upon government workers with false economy measures and objections to overdue pay increases.

"I therefore appeal to you with all the earnestness at my command to do everything in your power during the weeks ahead to bring out maximum registration and a full vote on Nov. 7.

"A sweeping election victory on Nov. 7 will strengthen America for a conclusive world victory over the enemies of peace and human freedom."

## Here's How ECA Fights Reds

Washington.—The bulletin from the Associated Press tells the story of the latest failure of the Russians because of the Marshall Plan:

BULLETIN

Berlin, Aug. 3 1950 (AP)—East Berlin agreed today to resume electric power deliveries to the three western sectors of the city after a month-long shutoff.

On July 1, the Soviet military government in Berlin repeated an action it had accomplished successfully two years ago. It cut off the western sectors of the city from electricity generated in the Soviet zone.

Two years ago this move resulted in a virtual black-out for some 2½ million Berliners living in American, British and French sectors. There wasn't enough electricity for heating and cooking, and morale slumped.

This time, however, the plan backfired. The lights remained burning in West Berlin, and there was enough electric power for other necessities. A new power plant, financed by Marshall Plan, counterpart funds, has made West Berliners practically independent of electricity generated in the Soviet zone. The electricity formed from the new plant defeated the Russian move to destroy the morale of the people of West Berlin and is giving the people renewed confidence in their ability to rebuild a crippled city.

Remember Gompers. Buy stamps!

### ANALYZES CRAFT UNITS

Washington.—Benjamin Rainbow Jr., writing in "The Yale Law Journal" on "The Taft-Hartley Act and Craft Unit Bargaining," asserts that the National Labor Relations Board's job of "serving as referee in craft cases remains one of its most vexing tasks."

## *Labor Day Message*

By PAUL G. HOFFMAN
ECA Administrator

On this Labor Day I wish to extend greetings to American Labor, and to the free trade unionists of Europe.

The growing international cooperation among the free trade unionists of the world is an encouraging sign in these troubled days.

I feel that such international cooperation, particularly the forming of the ICFTU (International Confederation of Free Trade Unions), will increasingly give strength against Communist aggression in the years to come.

I wish also at this time to express my deep appreciation for the splendid cooperation which American labor and the noncommunist labor movements of Europe have given to the Marshall Plan. Much of what we have accomplished could not have been done without that help.

## Rail Strike Off

Washington.—The Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen and the Order of Railway Conductors cancelled plans for a nationwide strike when President Truman ordered federal seizure of the railroads. The unions had urged seizure as the only way to avoid a walkout.

Presidents W. P. Kennedy of the Trainmen and K. O. Hughes of the Conductors told reporters that the two unions "greatly appreciate the fact that the two unions "greatly appreciate the fact that the President has acted favorably" on the request for seizure.

Hughes and Kennedy wanted the railroad presidents to bargain directly. The rail presidents did not attend the White House parleys conducted by John R. Steelman. Breakdown of the White House conferences led to the strike call.

The unions want a 40-hour week without a cut in take-home pay.

Newspapers reported the government would not attempt to negotiate a new contract with the unions, but would assist further collective bargaining between them and the railroads.

# Truman Signs Security Law, Of Great Benefit to Workers

## *Gets Oldest Union Minutes*

Washington.—Left, President Woodruff Randolph of the AFL International Typographical Union, receives copy of minutes, Jan. 7 1815, of Columbia Typographical Union 101, oldest labor union on the North American continent. Presentation was made by William Field (right), general chairman of the local committee for the ITU's 92d convention held here.

## *Benefits Nearly Double, Ten Million More Covered by Bill*

Washington.—President Truman signed the new Social Security Bill, increasing retirement benefits by an average of 90 percent and adding almost 10,000,000 more workers to coverage of the Social Security system.

In a statement, the President declared:

"Expanded coverage and increased benefits in old-age insurance should now be matched by steps to strengthen our unemployment insurance system.

"At the same time, we urgently need a system of insurance against loss of wages through temporary or permanent disability.

"These and other vital improvements in our social security laws are needed in addition to those for which I have signed today.

"I shall continue to urge action on this unfinished business and I know that the committees of Congress are now preparing to give these matters serious consideration."

Mr. Truman attached as "very substantial" the "Knowland amendment," sponsored by Sen. Knowland (R., Calif.) which the President signed as a rider. He expressed hope Congress will "remedy the defect" in this provision."

AFL leaders and administration representatives fought the Knowland amendment which would prevent the Secretary of Labor from withholding unemployment compensation funds from states failing to meet federal standards.

A summary of the provisions of the Social Security Act Amendments prepared by the Social Insurance Department of the American Federation of Labor follows:

"Final enactment of H.R. 6000 marks the first significant changes in the Social Security Bill in 12 years. For the most part these changes are in the direction of liberalizing the provisions of the Social Security Act and will greatly increase the protection afforded the wage earners in America.

The most significant changes are:

1. Changes in benefits both for those currently receiving benefits and for those who will be eligible in the future. The over-all average of increases is about 90 percent.

2. The coverage of the program will be extended to about 9,700,000 new persons.

3. Eligibility—the conditions which must be met by workers to be eligible for benefits are greatly liberalized.

4. The wage base used both for contributions and computation of benefits is raised from $3,000 to $4,800 which is a recognition of the need for adjusting the base in terms of the changing value of the dollar.

5. The types of benefits are broadened to include new categories.

6. The public assistance program under which aid is extended to those not eligible for insurance benefits is improved and liberalized.

While these amendments to the Social Security Act in H.R. 6000 contain many significant advances there were two important respects in which the action of Congress marked backward steps.

First, the inclusion of the Knowland amendment, which removes the effective enforcement by the Secretary of Labor in enforcing labor standards in unemployment compensation.

Second, the failure of Congress to include the principle of protection for those permanently and totally disabled from work.

Despite these 2 major deficiencies the total bill adds up to a tremendous advance in the field of social security legislation and the inclusion of the Knowland amendment and the failure to retain the disability provisions are regrettable, looking at the measure as a whole the balance is definitely on the plus side."

## Navy Lets Vessels Sail With Commies

San Francisco.—At the outbreak of the Korean war, AFL maritime unions were called to Washington with other shoreside and seagoing unions to make pledges to cooperate with the U. S. Coast Guard and Navy in keeping communists off their ships.

It looks like the Navy and Coast Guard either slumbered or pledges died.

Signing its protest to President Truman and declaring its position fully in the "West Coast Sailor," official SUP organ, the AFL Sailors Union of the Pacific charged that the Navy Department had chartered 11 foreign flag ships manned largely by the Korean scene while American ships and American seamen are tied up in layup or on the beaches.

The SUP journal asserted that foreign-owned Greek and Panamanian-flag vessels were carrying known communists in their crew.

Harry Lundeberg, secretary of the SUP, had earlier protested the reported decision of the American President Lines to reject the recommendation of the Navy Department to remove 7 alleged communists from the S. S. Gordon as it sailed from the San Francisco area with thousands of troops for the Korean theater. Lundeberg claimed the Navy permitted the 7 men to remain aboard under "surveillance," despite the possibility of sabotage.

# *They Prove It's Good Business Hiring Physically Handicapped*

## *Overcomes Leg Loss*

Washington.—With labor's overwhelming support, the American Federation of the Physically Handicapped opened its fifth biennial convention here for the purpose of promoting more jobs, better education and higher labor standards for handicapped veterans and workers.

The convention follows by a few weeks the annual meeting of President Truman's Committee on Employ the Physically Handicapped.

This committee made plans for the annual observance of NEPH (National Employ the Physically Handicapped) Week, Oct. 1-7.

Mr. Truman urged business and industry to make the fullest use of handicapped workers to meet the nation's needs in the Korean crisis and national defense against communism.

He issued the following proclamation:

Whereas the experience of an increasing number of employers has proved that physically handicapped workers, when placed in jobs suited to their abilities, can make a substantial contribution to the economic well-being of our country; and

Whereas the present need for maximum production requires the utilization of all our human resources; and

Whereas physically handicapped men and women should have an equal opportunity with others to earn a livelihood; and

Whereas the Congress, by a joint resolution approved Aug. 11, 1945 (59 Stat. 539), has designated the first week in October of each year as National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week and has requested the President to issue a suitable proclamation each year with a view to stimulating national interest in the employment of the handicapped; and

Now, therefore, I, Harry S. Truman, President of the United States of America, do hereby call upon the people of the United States to observe the week beginning Oct. 1, 1950, as National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week, and to cooperate with the President's Committee on National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week, and with the corresponding committees in the several states and territories, in carrying out the purposes of the joint resolution of Congress. I also request the governors of states, the mayors of cities and other public officials, as well as employers and leaders of labor, agricultural, veterans', women's, civic and religious organizations and all other interested groups representative of our national life, to observe the week by endeavoring to enlist the widest possible public support in additional employment opportunities for the physically handicapped.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto signed my hand and caused the Seal of the United States of America to be affixed.

FIX AGENDA

Geneva.—The Asian Technical Conference on Cooperation to be held by the International Labor Organization in Karachi, Pakistan, Dec. 28 to Jan. 2 will discuss establishment of organic and closer relationships between cooperatives.

Washington.—Typical of veterans overcoming physical handicaps, Crisanto Bautista, who lost his right leg in a bombing raid in Leyte in 1944, gained one of the highest efficiency ratings in the Wilmotte Manufacturing Co.

## *He Baked a Cake*

Washington.—Joseph Gibbs (left), wounded during Army service in Okinawa and Japan, puts the finishing touches to a cake he baked under the watchful eye of Theo Maggio, master baker instructor. Gibbs demonstrates rehabilitated wounded veterans are able workers.

## *For Release Sept. 1*

**Defense Sec'y Johnson's Labor Day Message**

Washington.—Secretary of Defense Johnson issued the following Labor Day message:

"Labor Day 1950 finds our way of life challenged by the evil enemies of human liberty and peace in the world. In Korea, American men are deep in battle with well trained troops. At home the American worker has rolled up his sleeves, offering the patriotic service that has helped to keep America free through the years. On Labor Day, symbol of the American worker's love of freedom, let us rededicate ourselves to the cause of peace and liberty. As in the past, labor and the Armed Forces are united in willingness to work, to fight and to die, if need be, for that cause."

## Educator Hails Labor's Wider Role

Champaign, Ill.—Labor Day, 1950, marks a milestone in the recognition of labor's role in public education, according to W. Ellnor Stevens, director of the Institute of Labor and Industrial Relations of the University of Illinois.

In a special Labor Day statement, Director Chalmers pointed out that the institute is beginning its fifth year—evidence of labor's increasingly important role in our society and in our education.

"The obligation of the state university to labor as well as to other groups in Illinois is now established," he said. "And, labor now has a voice in university activities through representatives on the Institute Advisory Committee."

Continuing, he recalled that not many years ago "labor was content to send its workers to labor relations schools" for purposes of learning to get the broad educational background and skills formerly provided in liberal arts colleges or universities—if at all.

Now, however, said Dr. Chalmers, the University of Illinois—and many other universities throughout the country—offers the subjects in one course of study leading to a specialized degree, Master of Arts in Labor and Industrial Relations.

With the university courses has come a new "professional status" to the field of labor relations, Dr. Chalmers pointed out.

"Gone are the days when collegetrained men and women did not seek —or could not find—jobs with labor unions," he said. Many institute graduates now work for unions, as well as for government agencies, industry and colleges and universities. With unions, they are working as organizers, business agents, on labor newspapers and on research.

# Teachers Endorse Truman on Korea; Delegates Reelect Union's Officers

Detroit.—Overwhelming support of President Truman's action in Korea was voiced by the 600 delegates to the American Federation of Teachers convention, who voted to "commend President Truman for his prompt and courageous decision to fulfill our assigned and accepted responsibilities in the United Nations."

Delegates further resolved in favor of strengthening the United Nations to provide the machinery which any effective international organization must have. Pointing to the fact that resistance to armed aggression is not enough to achieve lasting world peace they recommended implementation and extension of the Point 4 program, fullest support of the United Nations to the end that peaceful modification of the basic issues in the East-West conflict may be achieved and continuous effort to bring about international control of atomic energy with an adequate inspection system.

Oscar Ewing, federal security administrator, stressed the importance of the classroom in the world struggle for democracy. He declared for academic freedom, and warned that the closed mind of the doctrinaire dogmatist of either the left or right has no place in the American school.

We spend a few billion dollars short-age of working teachers in America today, but the low salaries which too many teachers receive is nothing less than scandalous," Ewing said. "We need to spend a billion dollars a year to improve our educational facilities."

Arthur Elder, director of the training school of the ILGW was elected to his 13th consecutive term as vice president of the American Federation of Teachers convening in Detroit. Elder is tax and education consultant of the American Federation of Labor.

John Eklind, Denver, Colo., was reelected president. Other elected members of the executive council are: Selma Borchardt, AFT Washington representative; Carmen Fitzpatrick, Milwaukee; Jessie Baxter, Lincoln Park, Mich.; Veronica Hill, New Orleans; Mary Cadigan, Boston; Paul Preisler, St. Louis; Lee Thomas, Los Guire, Anaconda, Mont.; Cecile Oliver, Portland, Ore.; Elsa Greenberg, New York; Mary Wheeler, Oak Park, Ill.; Edwin Rose, Oakland, Calif.; John Fewkes, Chicago; Ann Maloney, Gary, Ind.; Irving Fullington, Birmingham, Ala.

## *All-Out Political Drive Supported By Stagehands*

Detroit.—A spontaneous and overwhelming response to appeals to help defeat labor's enemies and elect labor's friends at the polls in November highlighted the convention of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employes and Moving Picture Machine Operators here.

Following addresses by William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor; Joseph D. Keenan, national director of Labor's League for Political Education, and Rep. Roy W. Wier, an IATSE member, the delegates staged a rousing demonstration and began work on the drive with on-the-spot contributions to Labor's League. Business of the convention was able to proceed only after the announcement of a bonus for delegates would be provided, and a substantial sum was realized from the final session adjourned.

A large part of the motivation for these developments was the biennial report of International President Richard F. Walsh, a member of the administrative committee of Labor's League, who explained in detail how the Taft-Hartley Act had hampered the IATSE at almost every turn in organizing and collective bargaining.

President Walsh's report, unanimously adopted by the convention, included an account of his recent trip to Europe, Israel, Egypt and Italy. President Truman, as labor adviser to the U. S. delegation to the Fifth General Conference of the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization.

"As one who had run up against communism in the U. S. I was well aware of the delicacy and importance of the assignment," he said. "The people of the various nations got to know me and I got to know them. I came to

munication of every sort, there will be no chance either for mutual understanding or for natural spread of those cultures which are not inherently destructive."

Regarding this country's military action as a result of the communist threat in South Korea, he declared:

"I feel that the cooperation which should and will be without any strings attached, but this patriotic duty must not keep us from using our political power to see that the working people are treated justly. Any freeze of wages, any call for a no-strike pledge, ought to be accompanied by a rollback of prices to the date of the Korean invasion—or else, prior to a freeze, wages ought to be raised to the same percentage which prices have risen since that time. Let any increased taxes falling heavily upon workers ought to be paralleled by at least a commensurate rise in corporation taxes."

The convention passed resolutions supporting President Truman's actions in the Korean crisis and urging the governments of the United States and Canada to outlaw communism.

President Walsh, General Secretary-Treasurer William P. Raoul and all officers were reelected unanimously.

The Right to VOTE Is Your Priceless Heritage
Don't Fail to Use It